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COMIC SHOP NEWS

Voltron: Reunited and It Feel So Good

It's been a few years since the heroes of the Voltron Force last soared through the pages of their own comic book series—but apparently you can't keep a good Defender of the Universe down!

While ***Voltron*** has found only limited success in its previous comics incarnations, Dynamite publisher *Nick Barrucci* is confident that the property has untapped potential, and his company has developed the formula for ***Voltron's*** comic book success. "Voltron is a great character," Barrucci said. "We've pursued ***Voltron*** for a few years since the license with the last publisher expired, but World Events Productions weren't ready to license ***Voltron*** out at the time. We followed up diligently but politely, and when the license became available through their licensing agents Classic Media, we went in 'guns a blazin'."

What is Dynamite doing to give ***Voltron*** more broad-based appeal when they launch their series in December? "I'd like to think we've got the right creative mix, the right marketing, and we're putting a lot of passion into it," Barrucci explained. I don't know that Voltron has had mixed success in the past, but we're going to apply the same formula that we've always applied to projects: bring in the right creative team, knowing they will deliver the best work they can."

Leading that creative team is writer *Brandon Thomas*, who is joined by artist *Ariel Padilla*. Thomas explained that "***Voltron*** was one of my favorite cartoons growing up, and it's an honor to have an opportunity to contribute something to the larger story of these characters. The tagline on the massive proposal I turned in was 'Generation Voltron,' and I called it that because of how important and formative some of this material was to me personally. Pretty safe to say that without the original ***Star Wars*** Trilogy and cartoons like ***Voltron*** that I might not have been driven to become a writer in the first place. These are the first things I ever encountered as a kid that made me ask, 'Well, what if this happened next?' My first 'stories' were in-between episodes and expansions of the cartoons and movies I was obsessed with at the time."

For readers unfamiliar with the concept of the animated series that serves as the inspiration for the comic, Thomas offered a synopsis. "Essentially, ***Voltron*** is the story of five young space explorers who pilot five robot lions, which then combine to form Voltron, Defender of the Universe. These space explorers are known as the Voltron Force and for years, they've been protecting the planet Arus from the evil King Zarkon, his son Prince Lotor, and the sorceress Haggar, who would create huge Robeasts to terrorize the people of Arus—which would inevitably cause the formation of Voltron and the destruction of these Robeasts.

"Almost all of this will come into play in this first arc but we are making a few alterations that we think people will be intrigued by---bringing some of the action to Earth, recasting the Space Explorers as a highly trained fighting unit that are just as dangerous without their lions, and a few other things we can't mention quite yet.

"But we're not going to drastically alter or erase anything that's come before…simply add some new layers and perspectives to things that will spark some new, modern approaches to the larger mythos."

How does Thomas intend to make ***Voltron*** accessible to readers who aren't very familiar with Voltron? "By taking a very back-to-basics approach with the characters and universe," Thomas said. "Our first story is really about tapping into the series' science fiction adventure roots and getting to the core of why people still respond so fondly to the characters and the world. There's something at the core of the concept that's still powering the fans to this day, and it's *not* just simple nostalgia.

"When you look closer, you realize that this story really does has everything you'd want from a modern space epic---cool robots, giant monsters, great heroes, great villains, magic, technology, teamwork, strong relationships, romance, etc., it's all there in ***Voltron***, and I think that's why a lot of us still remember it and what it meant to us.

"So the goal for people not already driven into a frenzy upon hearing the words 'form blazing sword' is to streamline the narrative sufficiently that those core elements shine through, and thus to attract a massive fanbase that's already into science fiction and action/adventure serials. There's literally something for everyone here and, we're going to make sure that everyone knows this is a book they should feel very comfortable jumping on board, no matter what their familiarity level is with all things Voltron."

In announcing the book, Dynamite referred to it as "***Voltron*** redefined and reimagined." Just what does that mean? "The closest approximation to what I'm attempting is probably *J.J. Abrams'* enormously successful ***Star Trek*** revamp/reboot. For people that were maybe a little familiar with the broadest strokes of that story and universe but had never fully plugged into it, it was a terrific and effective primer for what makes ***Star Trek*** and its characters enduring. For folks that knew any and everything about it, there were moments and elements inserted as kind of a wink and a smile to the audience, all without jeopardizing the film's overall accessibility. That's the kind of vibe I'm aiming for with this---something that acknowledges and gently tweaks the established history, while allowing new folks to jump on board along the way.

"There are things in this series that longtime fans have never seen from ***Voltron*** before and because of that, I think it places established fans and new fans on similar footing. Even if you think you know ***Voltron*** and what this book is going to be, we're going to surprise you—and if you have no idea what it even is, you're going to be able to quickly understand who the characters are, what the major stakes are, and why you should care."

Thomas's first story arc begins as "the Voltron Force has King Zarkon on the ropes," Thomas explained. "After being forced away from the planet Arus, his regime has been waging a number of desperate offenses throughout the galaxy, with Voltron in hot pursuit, sapping both Zarkon's resources and resolve. The self-proclaimed King of Doom knows it's almost over and so he's come to Earth for one last-ditch effort to preserve his dark legacy--and it all hinges on a secret century-old alliance between the greatest magic and the greatest technology in the galaxy. This secret changes everything for the Voltron Force, adding new layers to their previous adventurers, while setting the stage for an all-new era of action and adventure."

Is artist *Ariel Padilla* taking an animation-style approach for this series, or will he illustrate the series in a more realistic style? "Both," Padilla said. "Though much of the characters are done in realistic style, I'd like to have an anime-like feel to the action sequences—especially on the battle scenes, which I think will give the book a more exciting look."

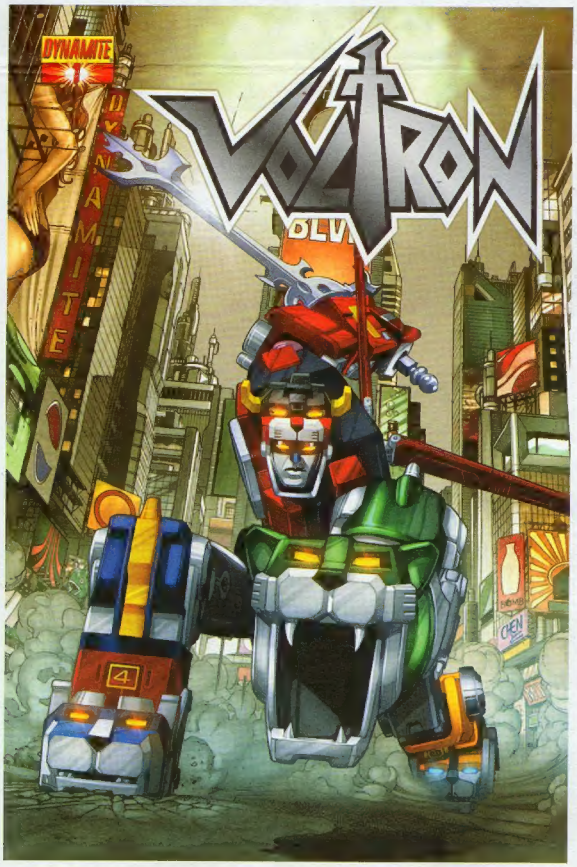
While many artists like to reinvent the look of a series when they take over, Padilla is taking a more traditional approach. "I'd like to retain as much of the designs of the original series as possible," Padilla said. "I don't want the readers to be alienated if I change the look of the characters. What I *did*, however, was update their look to make the book more contemporary."

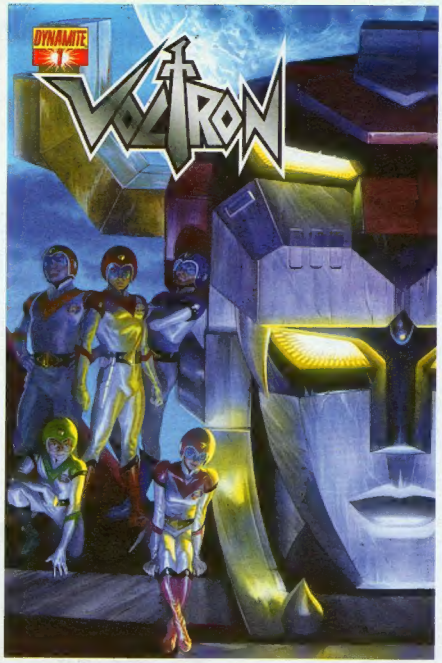
While *Alex Ross* is supplying cover art for ***Voltron,*** he is not supplying any visual redesigns—and there's a good reason for that. "***Voltron*** is a classic," Barrucci said. "There is no redesign needed. Alex is painting the covers and is helping us take it to the next level; he has a real passion for the series. We also have two of my favorite artists in comics involved as cover artists: *Sean Chen* has produced a stunning cover, and *Wagner Reis* from ***Captain Victory*** will be doing a superb cover for the first issue as well."

For *Brandon Thomas*, ***Voltron*** is a dream opportunity. "To be sitting in this position now is incredible, and I hope people support the book so I can keep going," Thomas said. "My proposal plotted out almost two years' worth of stories and I have big long-term goals for the book if people enjoy it. December is only the beginning, so we hope to see you there…"

Voltron #1, a $3.99 comic by *Brandon Thomas* and *Ariel Padilla* with covers by *Alex Ross, Sean Chen, & Wagner Reis,* is scheduled for mid-December release.

by Cliff Biggers





Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

New 52 = New Number 1!

If you've been following the news of DC New 52 sellout after sellout, it's probably no surprise that DC has climbed to the position of number one publisher for the month of September—both for total copies sold (aka unit market share, where DC had 43.04% of the market compared to Marvel's 37.88%) and for dollar value of sales (aka retail market share, where DC had 35.74% of the market compared to Marvel's 35.37%). DC accomplished then even though Marvel offered more than 200 line items in September (counting regular editions, variant editions, incentives, and additional printings) to DC's 100 item (approximate) output. Furthermore, DC did this with a line that consists almost entirely of $2.99 books, while a significant portion of Marvel's line carries a $3.99 pricetag.

In addition, DC had all 5 of the top 5 comics in September; 8 of the top 10; 17 of the top 20; 19 of the top 25; and 32 of the top 50. They also had the second-best-selling graphic novel in September: *Marv Wolfman & George Pérez's* ***Teen Titans: Games,*** which was second only to *Frank Miller's* ***Holy Terror.***

Will DC be able to continue those figures through the month of October? Hard to say, but the fact that *all 52 of the New 52 titles is going back to press in October* is sure to help, since that means that DC will be offering 52 extra line items in addition to their monthly New 52 titles and their other offerings (licensed properties, all-ages titles, Vertigo, etc.)

There's no denying it, though: DC's New 52 made comics history in September—and they brought legions of new and lapsed readers back to comic shops!

Back to Press

And speaking of DC's New 52, the sellout phenomenon gave DC a clean sweep: the publisher announced that the 13 fourth-week titles are also going back to press with new editions (featuring recolored versions of the original cover), meaning that all 52 New 52 titles have sold out and are going back to press. Additionally, ***Swamp Thing #1*** and ***Detective Comics #1*** are going back to press for *third* printings (also featuring recolored versions of the orignal covers). Here's the schedule:

- ***All-Star Western #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG118111), in stores this week.
- ***Aquaman #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG118112), in stores this week.
- ***Batman: The Dark Knight #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG118113), in stores this week.
- ***Blackhawks #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG118114), in stores this week.
- ***Detective Comics #1 3rd Printing*** (AUG118164), in stores 11/2.
- ***The Flash #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG118115), in stores this week.
- ***The Fury of Firestorm: The Nuclear Men 2nd Printing*** (AUG118116), in stores this week.
- ***Green Lantern: New Guardians #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG118117), in stores this week.
- ***I, Vampire #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG118118), in stores this week.
- ***Justice League Dark #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG118119), in stores this week.
- ***The Savage Hawkman #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG118120), in stores this week.
- ***Superman #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG118121), in stores this week.
- ***Swamp Thing #1 3rd Printing*** (AUG118165), in stores 11/2.
- ***Teen Titans #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG118112), in stores this week.
- ***Voodoo #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG118113) in stores this week.

Other back-to-press titles from other publishers include:

- ***Daredevil #4 2nd Printing*** (AUG118133), in stores 11/2.
- ***Star Trek Ongoing #1 2nd Printing*** (AUG118085), in stores 11/2.
- ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #1 3rd Printing*** (AUG118097), in stores 11/2.
- ***X-Men: Schism #1 X Printing*** (AUG118170), in stores 11/9.
- ***X-Men: Schism #2 X Printing*** (AUG118171), in stores 11/9.
- ***X-Men: Schism #3 X Printing*** (AUG118172), in stores 11/9.
- ***X-Men: Schism #4 X Printing*** (AUG118173), in stores 11/9.
- ***X-Men: Schism #5 X Printing*** (AUG118174), in stores 11/9.

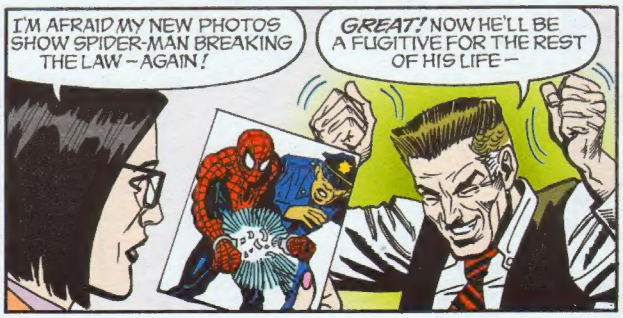
CSNsider

- Due to a technical glitch, there was no solicitation for ***Kick-Ass 2 #5*** (Aug118087). The book *is* in the works, however, and will reach comic shops in mid-November. There will also be a 1-for-25 *Bryan Hitch* variant cover version, as well as a 1-for-15 photo cover variant.
- ***Point One #1*** will be offered with two different *Nick Bradshaw* variants: the standard Bradshaw variant (AUG118186), which is offered without limits, and the Bradshaw inked variant (AUG118187), which is a 1-for-100 limited variant (so ask the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop for info on price and availability).

- Conan's nefarious adversary Thoth-Amon returns in ***King Conan: The Phoenix on the Sword,*** a limited series by *Timothy Truman and Tomas Giorello* slated for January release from Dark Horse.
- IDW has tallied the results, and the four Decision 2012 biographical comics that will see print are ***Barack Obama, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul,*** and ***Michele Bachman.*** (However, one of those four has subsequently announced that she is not a candidate for office, while none of the Republican frontrunners—Mitt Romney, Herman Cain, or Rick Perry—are on the list.

- *Brian Wood,* whose exclusive with DC recently came to an end, has already signed on to write a ***Wolverine*** project that will also guest-star Quentin Quire. Look for more news on this in upcoming issues of ***Comic Shop News.***
- *Brian Wood* is also reuniting with *Becky Cloonan,* who worked with him on ***Demo,*** for an as-yet-unnamed Dark Horse book. While there has been no official announcement yet, the rumor site Bleeding Cool reports that the two will work on a Conan project.
- *Chris Roberson,* best known for his acclaimed Vertigo series ***iZombie*** and his Boom Studios project ***Elric: The Balance Lost,*** team sup with artist *Steve Ellis* to launch ***Memorial,*** a new IDW series debuting this December. ***Memorial***'s star is a young woman who arrives at a Portland

SPIDER-MAN BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER


I'M AFRAID MY NEW PHOTOS SHOW SPIDER-MAN BREAKING THE LAW – AGAIN!
GREAT! NOW HE'LL BE A FUGITIVE FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE –
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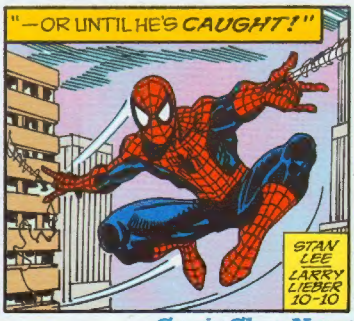

COMIC SHOP NEWS
Published weekly since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.
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hospital with no memory of her past. After spending a year rebuilding her life, everything is thrown into turmoil when she inherits a magical shop—the kind that appears in an alley one instance and disappears the next. Soon she finds herself drawn into a supernatural conflict between beings that not only represent, but *are*, fundamental elements of the universe itself.

•IDW has revealed *most* of the contents of their *John Romita* ***Artist's Edition*** hardcover. This 12" x 17" hardcover will reproduce ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 67, 68, 69, 71, 75, 84,*** and one more yet-unnamed issue, all reproduced from Romita's original art. While the art is in black and white, the book will be reproduced in full color to show off blue line work, underlying pencils, corrections, and other distinctive qualities of the original art.

•This past winter's ***Infestation*** event is collected in a 260-page hardcover this December; the book will include the ***Infestation*** bookends as well as the ***Infestation: G.I. Joe, Star Trek, Transformers,*** and ***Ghostbusters*** miniseries.

•If you've been unable to locate copies of *Ashley Wood's* long-since-sold-out ***Fanta*** art books, then here's a must-have. ***Fat Tarino*** is a massive 12" x 12" collection that includes ***Uno Fanta, Dos Fanta,*** and ***Tres Fanta*** in one limited slipcased edition. Don't delay letting the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop know that you want a copy, though, because this one won't be available for long!

•*Clive Barker's* IDW work is collected in the massive 444-page ***Clive Barker Omnibus,*** which includes ***The Thief of Always, The Great and Secret Show,*** and ***Seduth,*** featuring art by the two *Gabriels—Hernandez* and *Rodriguez*. Look for it in December.

•Fans of *Terry Moore's* striking artwork (and who *isn't?*) will want to add ***Hot Girls, Cold Feet*** to their must-have list for December. The 64-page book, subtitled ***The Terry Moore 2011 Sketchbook,*** offers everything from dancing doodles to striking pencils to realistically-endowed women, and it's a perfect complement to ***Terry Moore's How to Draw*** series of comics that offer practical advice on illustrating realistic characters.

•Ape Entertainment presents a seasonal collection of classic Richie Rich stories by *Sid Jacobson, Ernie Colon,* and others in ***Richie Rich Gems Winter Special,*** a oneshot that collects short tales from the Harvey Comics days.

•*Michael Alan Nelson & Matteo Scalera* combine sword & sorcery and zombie horror in ***Outcast.*** The series stars a just king and great warrior who was killed by a necromancer and resurrected as one of the walking dead. Now he has only one goal: to restore his lost soul. Boom Studios is so confident that readers will like what they see in the pages of December's premiere issue that they're offering it for the bargain price of $1.00.

•Two of *Mark Waid's* most compelling superhumans cross paths beginning in December, when Boom launches the ***Irredeemable/Incorruptible*** crossover fourparter. The story begins in ***Irredeemable #32,*** when the Plutonian sets out to track down Max Damage, while Max searches desperately for the key to the Plutonian's defeat. The story continues in December's ***Incorruptible #25,*** then wraps up in January's ***Irredeemable #33*** and ***Incorruptible #26.***

At the same time the crossover begins, Boom is also offering ***Irredeemable #1 Artist Edition*** and ***Incorruptible #1 Artist Edition,*** a pair of black and white books that supplement the premiere issues' line art with fascinating bonus features.

•In December, Fantagraphics assembles some of *Joe Simon & Jack Kirby's* best romance tales in ***Young Romance: The Best of Simon & Kirby's 1940s-1950s Romance Comics,*** a 200-page hardcover featuring 21 stories carefully restored by *Michael Gagné.*

•Acclaimed Southern gothic writer *Flannery O'Connor* is best known for her tales of Southern grotesques and morally ambiguous characters—but it turns out that before she became a major literary figure, she was a prolific cartoonist. This winter, Fantagraphics is collecting her cartoons (produced for small newspapers and university publications in the 1940s) in ***Flannery O'Connor: The Cartoons.***

•Hermes Press continues their comprehensive reprinting of Phantom comic books with ***The Phantom: The Complete Series—The King Years HC,*** a meticulously restored 256-page hardcover that collects ***Phantom #s 18-28*** by *Bill Wood & Dick Lignante.*

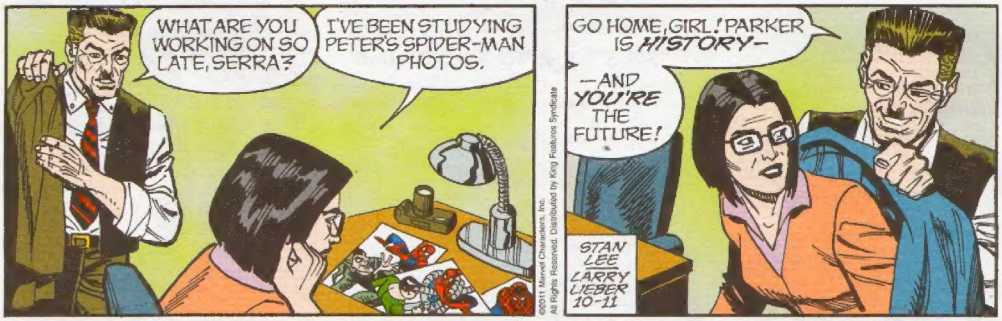
•This winter, the Hero Initiative joins forces with DC Comics for their latest benefit book, ***The Justice League of America 100 Project.*** This 120-page book features 100-plus covers for ***Justice League of America #50,*** featuring previously-unseen covers by *Mark Bagley, Alan Davis, George Pérez, Frank Quitely, Alex Ross,* and many others—and all the profits go to benefit Golden and Silver Age creators who have no insurance or benefits to assist them in their later years.

•There's no shortage of ***Flash Gordon*** collections out there—but the folks at Titan Publishing are confident that their ***Complete Flash Gordon Library*** will be the best of the bunch. These volumes will reprint all the stories, meticulously restored and in order, starting with the very first strip by *Alex Raymond* and including the dailies and the Sundays. ***Volume 1: On the Planet Mongo,*** a 192-page hardcover slated for December release, features a sketch and foreword by *Alex Ross,* who is also supplying cover art and designs for Dynamite's ***Flash Gordon: Zeitgeist*** series.

•Now here's a way to build the chess set that'll be the envy of every comic book fan: Eaglemoss (the company responsible for those masterfully-done DC and Marvel lead figures) is launching a new series, ***The DC Superhero Chess Figure Collector Magazine.*** Each issue will offer a figurine cast in metallic resin, along with a magazine offering background details on the featured character and instructions on how the chess piece operates on the board. The initial round of figures, based on Gotham City's heroes and villains, include ***Batman (White King), Robin (White Bishop), Joker (Black King),*** and ***Commissioner Gordon (White Pawn).*** Look for them in early 2012.

LAST ISSUE I GAVE YOU THE ORIGIN OF ANNIHILATOR, THE NORTH STAR HERO OF THE GOLDEN AGE OF BOY ADVENTURE COMICS! THE SILVER AGE—HERE WE COMES!

•The University Press of Mississippi is offering a pair of fascinating critical commentaries this winter. ***Grant Morrison: Combining the Worlds of Contemporary Comics*** presents *Marc Singer's* analysis of Morrison's stylistic and thematic approach to comics, while ***Hand of Fire: The Comics Art of Jack Kirby*** features *Charles Hatfield's* analysis of Kirby's techniques, composition, and recurrent themes. Both books are offered in both hardcover and trade paperback.


WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON SO LATE, SERRA?
I'VE BEEN STUDYING PETER'S SPIDER-MAN PHOTOS.
GO HOME, GIRL! PARKER IS HISTORY—
—AND YOU'RE THE FUTURE!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-11
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I KEEP FEELING I'M BEING WATCHED!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-12
BUT THERE'S NO ONE THERE!
I WAS WRONG!
WE'VE GOT TO TALK!
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CSN TOP COMIC

ACTION COMICS #3

Grant Morrison (W); Rags Morales, Brent Anderson, & Rick Bryant (A)

(DC SEP110114 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Why would the people of Metropolis turn on their new champion?

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison has taken Superman back to his Golden Age roots with this rough-and-tumble reinterpretation of Superman's early years—but this is far more than a Golden Age pastiche, as Morrison brings his unpredictable plot sense and distinctive storytelling style to play in this compelling revamp.

ARCHIE #627 (ARCHIE MEETS KISS PT 1)

Alex Segura (W); Dan Parent (A)

(Archie OCT110805 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

KISS may have had some monster hits over the decades, but does that qualify them to take on the monsters that are over-running Riverdale?

Why Should You Care?

This four-parter features the unlikeliest team-up since Archie Meets Punisher—and it's the first of two very different KISS comics projects, as IDW is already working on a KISS book! (Betcha it won't be *quite* as wholesome and all-ages-friendly as this one, though!...)

AVENGING SPIDER-MAN #1

Zeb Wells (W); Joe Madureira (A)

(Marvel SEP110536 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Spider-Man needs a hand when the Moloid army launches an attack during the New York Marathon... so make way for the Red Hulk!

Why Should You Care?

Zeb Wells & Joe Madureira kick off a series that harkens back to the glory days of ***Marvel Team-Up***, as Spider-Man joins forces with some of the greatest heroes in the Marvel Universe.

BATMAN: NOEL DELUXE EDITION HC

Lee Bermejo (W/A)

(DC JUL110245 $22.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batman must come to terms with his past, present, and future as he faces challenges ranging from the campy 1960s to the brutal menaces of today—and along the way, he explores what it means to be a hero.

Why Should You Care?

Lee Bermejo, the artist who helped make ***Joker*** one of the best-selling graphic novels of the past decade, is both writer *and* artist of this original graphic novel that offers a distinctively heroic take on Dickens' ***A Christmas Carol***.

BILLY TUCCI'S A CHILD IS BORN

Billy Tucci (W/A)

(Apostle Arts SEP110740 $5.99)

What's the Scoop?

Adapted from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, this oneshot is an inspired retelling of Christ's birth, meticulously researched and carefully documented.

Why Should You Care?

Billy Tucci produces a true labor of love in this graphic novella that will be on many readers' Christmas lists—and what better gift to introduce Christmas celebrants to comics?

FANTASTIC FOUR #600

Jonathan Hickman (W); Steve Epting, Carmine Di Giandomenico, Leinil Yu, Farel Dalrymple (A)

(Marvel SEP110551 $7.99)

What's the Scoop?

Marvel celebrates the fiftieth anniversary (and 600th issue) of ***Fantastic Four*** with a 104-page all-new issue that seems to reintroduce the much beloved fourth member of the FF...

Why Should You Care?

Jonathan Hickman brings back the *real* FF in this landmark issue—and Marvel promises that it will kick off a five-parter that wraps up the grand storyline that Hickman began over thirty issues ago.

FEAR ITSELF #7 POINT ONE

Ed Brubaker (W); Butch Guice (A)

(Marvel SEP110497 $3.99)

FEAR ITSELF #7 POINT TWO

Matt Fraction (W); Salvador Larroca (A)

(Marvel SEP110499 $3.99)

FEAR ITSELF #7 POINT THREE

Matt Fraction (W); Adam Kubert (A)

(Marvel SEP110501 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Fear Itself is over, and now Captain America, Iron Man, and Thor must deal with the ramifications of the struggle in a trio of aftermath issues.

Why Should You Care?

Fear Itself has taken its toll on Marvel's mightiest heroes—and now readers will see just how the events of that series will impact the lives of Marvel's mightiest Avengers. The event may be over, but its aftereffects will ripple through the Marvel Universe for months to come.

FLASH GORDON: ZEITGEIST #1

Eric Trautmann (W); Daniel Lindro (A)

(Dynamite SEP110966 $1.00)

What's the Scoop?

In 1934, three humans are transported from Earth to the distant planet Mongo, where they confront the tyrannical ruler Ming in a classic SF adventure.

Why Should You Care?

Eric Trautmann draws inspiration from the work of *Alex Raymond* for this series that takes Flash Gordon, Dale Arden, and Dr. Zarkov back to the adventurous era that was the strip's original "home turf." It's been a long time since we've seen a back-to-the-basics ***Flash Gordon***... but it was well worth the wait!

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CS: NOVEMBER

FLIGHT OF ANGELS HC

Holly Black, Bill Willingham, Alisa Kwitney, Louise Hawes, & T.D. Mitchell (W); Rebecca Guay (A)

(Vertigo/DC JUL110277 $24.99)

What's the Scoop?

After finding a dying angel, thee fawns, faeries, hags, and hobgoblins who discovered him share their ideas of what this celestial creature might be, telling wonderful tales of the angelic in a quest to find the truth.

Why Should You Care?

Artist *Rebecca Guay* conceived of this distinctive frame story in the tradition of ***The Canterbury Tales*** and ***The Decameron***, with a dash of *Gabriel Garcia Marquez* thrown in for good measure—and then she enlisted a quintet of talented writers to help her tell the tales. Don't worry, though: this is a delightful fantasy, not a literature lesson—the emphasis is on the fantastic and wondrous here!

GREEN LANTERN #3

Geoff Johns (W); Doug Mahnke & Christian Alamy (A)

(DC SEP110137 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Sinestro, a Green Lantern? Hal Jordan, an all-too-ordinary human? The Sinestro Corps, out for Sinestro's blood? It's a strange world, after all!...

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns, the man who made Green Lantern a superstar, continues to astound with his blend of unpredictable plotlines and epic visions. This series continues where his best-selling ***War of the Green Lanterns*** left off, making it one of the few books whose plotlines bridge the ***Flashpoint/New 52*** divide.

GREEN LANTERN: THE ANIMATED SERIES #0

Art Baltazar & Franco (W); Dario Brizuela (A)

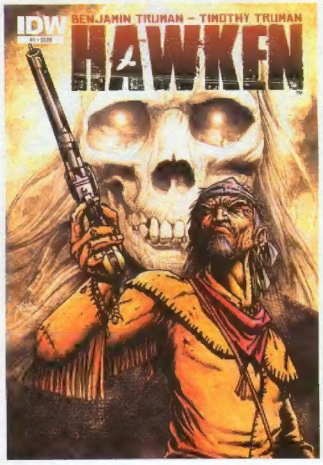
(DC SEP110201 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Guardians have always been very protective of their amazing green rings... so why did Hal Jordan and Kilowog just fid one floating in space?

Why Should You Care?

DC expands its all-ages line with this zero issue that paves the way for an upcoming monthly series. Now if DC would just follow this up with more all-ages books starring the rest of their iconic heroes (all-ages ***Wonder Woman*** book, anyone?). Great done-in-one stories, strong characterization, straight-ahead plotlines... more comics should be like this!



HAWKEN #1 (OF 6)

Tim & Ben Truman (W); Tim Truman (A)

(IDW SEP110330 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

An Old West scout, hunter, and killer-for-hire, tortured and left for dead by the mysterious order called the Ring, returns on a quest for vengeance—and he's accompanied by the ghosts of every person he's ever killed.

Why Should You Care?

It's been too long since we've seen a new concept from *Tim Truman*—and when that new concept is a weird Western from the man who does Westerns better than any American comics creator, we're ready to saddle up!

JUSTICE LEAGUE #3

Geoff Johns (W); Jim Lee & Scott Williams (A)

(DC SEP110095 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Justice League adds one of its most powerful members as Wonder Woman joins the battle... and the League!

Why Should You Care?

If an all-star creative team like *Geoff Johns & Jim Lee* isn't reason enough, then howsabout this: the first ***Justice League*** arc, set about five years before the events of the other New 52 books, builds the foundation upon which the entire New 52 rests.

P.C. CAST'S HOUSE OF NIGHT #1 (OF 5)

P.C. Cast, Kristin Cast, & Kent Dalian (W); Joelle Jones & Karl Kerschl (A)

(Dark Horse SEP110009 $1.00)

What's the Scoop?

Adolescence is challenging enough for a teenager—but Zoey Redbird has to balance adolescence with vampirism, and that means adjusting to life in the vampyre academy House of Night, where blood thirst and elemental magic make being a teenager even more of a challenge.

Why Should You Care?

Best-selling authors *P.C. Cast & Kristin Cast* bring the world of their best-selling ***House of Night*** novels to comics—and Dark Horse is so sure you'll like it that they're offering the first issue for only a buck!

PEANUTS #0

Paige Braddock & others (W/A)

(Boom SEP110913 $1.00)

What's the Scoop?

More than sixty years after making his comic strip debut, Charlie Brown and friends make their ongoing comic book series debut with this special zero issue.

Why Should You Care?

An ongoing ***Peanuts*** series with original stories in every issue, produced by *Paige Braddock* and the talents and Charles M Schulz Creative Services, with the blessings (and supervision) of Peanuts Worldwide? You can't ask for a better pedigree than that!

POINT ONE #1

Brian Bendis, Jeph Loeb, Ed Brubaker, Matt Fraction, David Lapham, Fred Van Lente, Christopher Yost (W); Ed McGuinness, Bryan Hitch, Terry Dodson, Roberto De La Torre, Ryan Stegman, Javier Pulido, & others (A)

(Marvel SEP110496 $5.99)

What's the Scoop?

One 64-page oneshot... Seven original stories that offer a preview of what Marvel has in store for 2012... Top talents... Major characters... They're all in here!

Why Should You Care?

Marvel promises that 2012 will bring the biggest change to the Marvel Universe in over 35 years... and this is where it starts!

STAR WARS: CRIMSON EMPIRE III—EMPIRE LOST #1 (OF 6)

Mike Richardson (W); Paul Gulacy (A)

(Dark Horse AUG110015 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

A threat against Princess Leia and Han Solo's family disrupts business as usual on Coruscant... and Luke Skywalker's Jedi training on Yavin 4. Meanwhile, in another part of the galaxy, bounty hunter Kir Kanos is ready to settle an old score.

Why Should You Care?

After a ten year hiatus, Dark Horse revisits the most popular of all its ***Star Wars*** sagas, the tale of the last Imperial Guardsman... and the cast of the *real* ***Star Wars***.

IF I HELP CLEAR YOU—YOU MUST TRUST ME.
I'VE NO OTHER CHOICE!
THIS PHONE HAS MY NUMBER ON SPEED-DIAL.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-14
AND THIS SPIDEY TRACER WILL LEAD ME TO YOU!
IT'S BETTER THAN GPS.
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UNCANNY X-MEN #1

Kieron Gillen (W); Carlos Pacheco (A)

(Marvel SEP110591 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Schism is complete, and now the Uncanny X-Men blue team line-up includes Emma Frost, Cyclops, Colossus, Magneto, Danger, and Magik... and it looks like their first mission will pit them against Mister Sinister and a cosmic threat.

Why Should You Care?

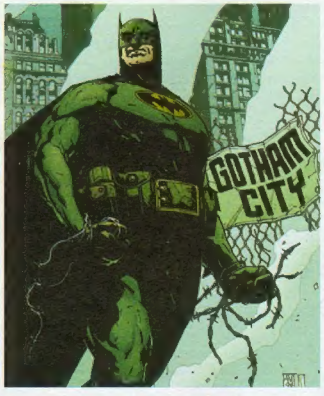
After shaking up the X-Men with ***Schism***, Marvel is rebuilding the franchise with top-tier talent (what else would you call *Kieron Gillen* and *Carlos Pacheco*?), popular characters, and storylines that readers actually care about (not a vampire to be seen!).

Collected Cool: November's Best Reprint Volumes

ABSOLUTE SANDMAN HC VOL 5

(Vertigo/DC APR110255 $99.99)

This deluxe slipcased edition completes the upscale ***Sandman*** library with an odds-and-ends volume that includes ***Sandman: Endless Nights***, ***The Dream Hunters*** (both the prose novella *and* the comics adaptation) and ***Sandman Midnight Theater***. Your library isn't complete without it!



BATMAN NO MAN'S LAND TP VOL 1 DELUXE EDITION

(DC AUG110242 $29.99)

Sure, this series has been collected before—but not like this! For the first time, the classic Batman epic is collected *in full*, including chapters that were never before reprinted in any other *No Man's Land* collection.

EC ARCHIVES HAUNT OF FEAR HC VOL 1

(GC SEP111117 $49.95)

EC ARCHIVES VAULT OF HORROR HC VOL 2

(GC SEP111116 $49.95)

The carefully recolored EC library, featuring the masterful palette of *Marie Severin*, continues under new publishers GC Press (that's *Grant Geissman* and *Russ Cochran*, the man who paved the way for the EC renaissance). These volumes reprint ***Haunt of Fear #s 1-6*** and ***Vault of Horror #s 7-12***.

ESSENTIAL SGT. FURY TP VOL 1

(Marvel SEP110683 $19.99)

One of the few missing gems of Marvel's early days is presented in ***Essentials*** format at last! This hefty collection includes ***Sgt. Fury #s 1-23*** and ***Annual #1***.

FANTASTIC FOUR BY JOHN BYRNE OMNIBUS HC VOL 1

(Marvel JUN110717 $125.00)

The best FF stories this side of the *Stan Lee-Jack Kirby* run are compiled in this massive volume that reprints ***Fantastic Four #s 215-218, 220-221, 232-262***, and much more.

GREEN LANTERN OMNIBUS HC VOL 2

(DC JUL110254 $75.00)

Pay a return visit to the Silver Age with this collection of ***Green Lantern #s 22-45***, reprinting some of the best Silver Age work of *John Broome, Gardner Fox, & Gil Kane*.

SPY VS SPY BY PROHIAS OMNIBUS HC

(Mad/DC JUL110276 $49.99)

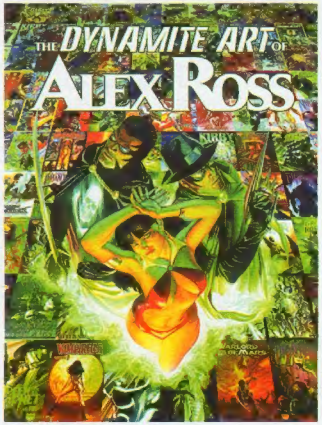
Welcome to the cold war in glorious black and white! This hardcover compiles all of *Antonio Prohias'* Spy Vs Spy from ***Mad Magazine*** in one hefty volume.

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ALAN MOORE: CONVERSATIONS SC

(University Press of Mississippi AUG111317 $25.00)

This fascinating collection includes ten interviews with the legendary comics creator, conducted at various periods during his phenomenal career. And if you've ever read an *Alan Moore* interview, you know that there's plenty to think about in these pages!



DYNAMITE ART OF ALEX ROSS HC

(Dynamite SEP110965 $39.99)

For the past several years, *Alex Ross* has worked almost exclusively with Dynamite Entertainment—and now that publisher has produced an oversized book highlighting Ross's art, including sketches, designs, layouts, pencils, interior work, covers, and a wealth of unpublished art, along with all of Alex's Dynamite covers and interior art in one complete hardcover volume, supplemented by commentary from Ross himself

HERGE: GENIUS OF TINTIN BIOGRAPHY SC

(Consortium SEP111364 $18.95)

Raphael Taylor offers an insightful and informative look at the life of *Georges Remi*, better known as *Hergé*, creator of Tintin. Taylor draws on Hergé's private letters and exclusive family interviews to explore the life and creative output of this comics genius.

GOVERNMENT ISSUE COMICS FOR THE PEOPLE 1940-2000S

(Abrams AUG111335 $29.95)

(W) Richard Graham, Various

Since the 1940s, federal and state government agencies have published comics to disseminate public information—and they've enlisted the talents of such comics greats as Will Eisner, Milt Caniff, and Walt Kelly to produce those books for them. ***Government Issue*** reproduces an important selection of these official comics in full-reading format, plus a broad range of excerpts and covers, all organized chronologically in thematic chapters.

NAUGHTY & NICE: GOOD GIRL ART BRUCE TIMM SC

(Flesk SEP111094 $50.00)

Bruce Timm showcases over 350 full-color, line and pencil images of partially clothed and nude women of almost every conceivable description and temperament, often accompanied by Timm's comments. Over 125 new images have been prepared especially for this exploration of the female form.

R CRUMB: COMPLETE RECORD COVER COLLECTION HC

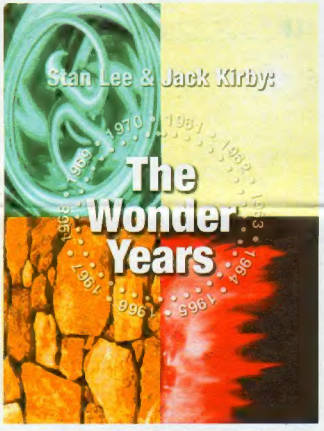
(WW Norton JUL111294 $25.95)

This art book spotlights *Robert Crumb*'s album art produced over the past forty-plus years, beginning with *Janis Joplin's* ***Cheap Thrills*** and continuing through his recent CD covers.

SILVER AGE OF COMICS SC

(BearManor SEP111366 $26.95)

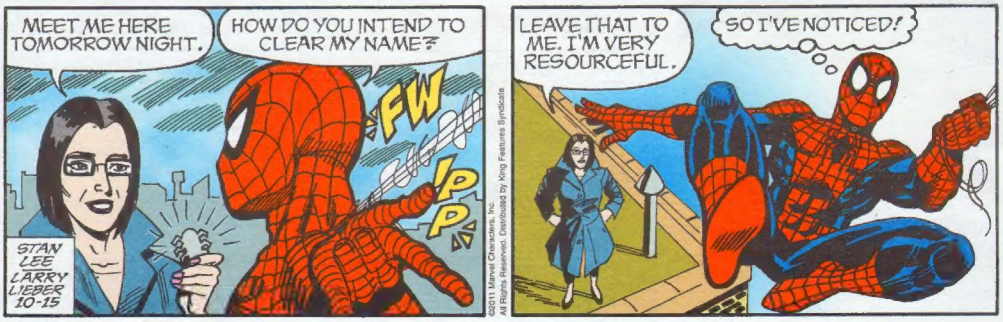
William Schoell looks at super-hero comic books produced in the mid-fifties to late sixties, a glorious era when science fiction, crime, and mystery comics were replaced by a new renaissance of superhero adventures and the growth of innovative publishers and intriguing concepts. In addition, Schoell spotlights the creators who helped to shape the Silver Age, and the recurrent themes of the era.



STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY'S WONDER YEARS SC

(TwoMorrows SEP111248 $19.95)

Mark Alexander celebrates the 50th Anniversary of Fantastic Four #1 with this new book about the two pop-culture visionaries who launched the Marvel Age of Comics. Alexander chronicles both Lee and Kirby's history at Marvel Comics, and the remarkable series of events and career choices that led them to converge in 1961 to conceive the Fantastic Four.


MEET ME HERE TOMORROW NIGHT.
HOW DO YOU INTEND TO CLEAR MY NAME?
FW
IP
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-15
LEAVE THAT TO ME. I'M VERY RESOURCEFUL.
SO I'VE NOTICED!
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Follow *Spider-Man* every week in *Comic Shop News*!

WILL EISNER: CONVERSATIONS HC

(University Press of Mississippi AUG111344 $65.00)

Thomas Inge collects the best interviews with Eisner from 1965 to 2004, offering in-depth looks at the creation of the Spirit, Eisner's dedication to the educational uses of the medium, and his contributions to the development of the graphic novel.

Hot Commodities: November's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

DC UNIVERSE ONLINE STATUE: HARLEY QUINN

(DC Direct APR110282 $90.00)

DC UNIVERSE ONLINE STATUE: THE JOKER

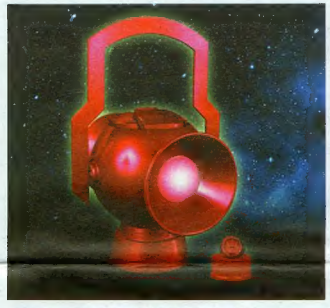
(DC Direct APR110283 $90.00)

Jim Lee's art is the inspiration for this pair of statues depicting two of Batman's most disturbed—and disturbing—adversaries.

HULK MINI-BUST

(Gentle Giant MAY111809 $80.00)

Gentle Giant kicks off its line of mini-busts with this depiction of Bruce Banner's hulking alter-ego, cast in high quality poly stone, hand painted and hand numbered.



JLA TROPHY ROOM RED LANTERN BATTERY PROP REPLICA

(DC Direct JAN110451 $350.00)

This full-scale resin prop replica power battery measures approximately 10.25" high (minus the handle) x 11.5" wide x 10" deep, and includes a red power ring that lights up the lantern.

THOR CLASSIC ACTION STATUE

(Bowen JUL111881 $275.00)

This unique *Randy Bowen*-sculpted statue, inspired by the striking art of *Jack Kirby* depicts Thor whirling his hammer Mjolnir as he prepares for combat with his adversaries.

Check 'Em Out: Books You Should Be Reading

ALL STAR WESTERN #3

(DC SEP110161 $3.99)

Justin Gray & Jimmy Palmiotti continue to explore the early days of Gotham City in this Western-era melodrama that teams Jonah Hex and the Gotham City Police Department on a quest to bring a serial killer to justice. But it's the glimpses into 19th Century Gotham that make this a must-read.

AQUAMAN #3

(DC SEP110100 $2.99)

Aquaman has endured every cliched complaint and stereotyped joke, and now he's ready to remind everyone why he's a hero to be respected in this *Geoff Johns* revamp.

ATLAS UNIFIED #1

(Ardden SEP110777 $2.99)

The Grim Ghost, Phoenix, Wulf the Barbarian, and Detective Sam Lomax join forces for the first time in 35 years in a historical Atlas crossover event.

BATGIRL #3

(DC SEP110133 $2.99)

Batgirl and Nightwing cross paths in the third issue of Barbara Gordon's solo series.

GUTTERS ABSOLUTE COMPLETE OMNIBUS VOL 1

(Dynamite SEP111015 $39.95)

Collecting the irreverent online strip that pokes fun at everything and everyone in the comics industry .

KIRBY: GENESIS—SILVER STAR #1

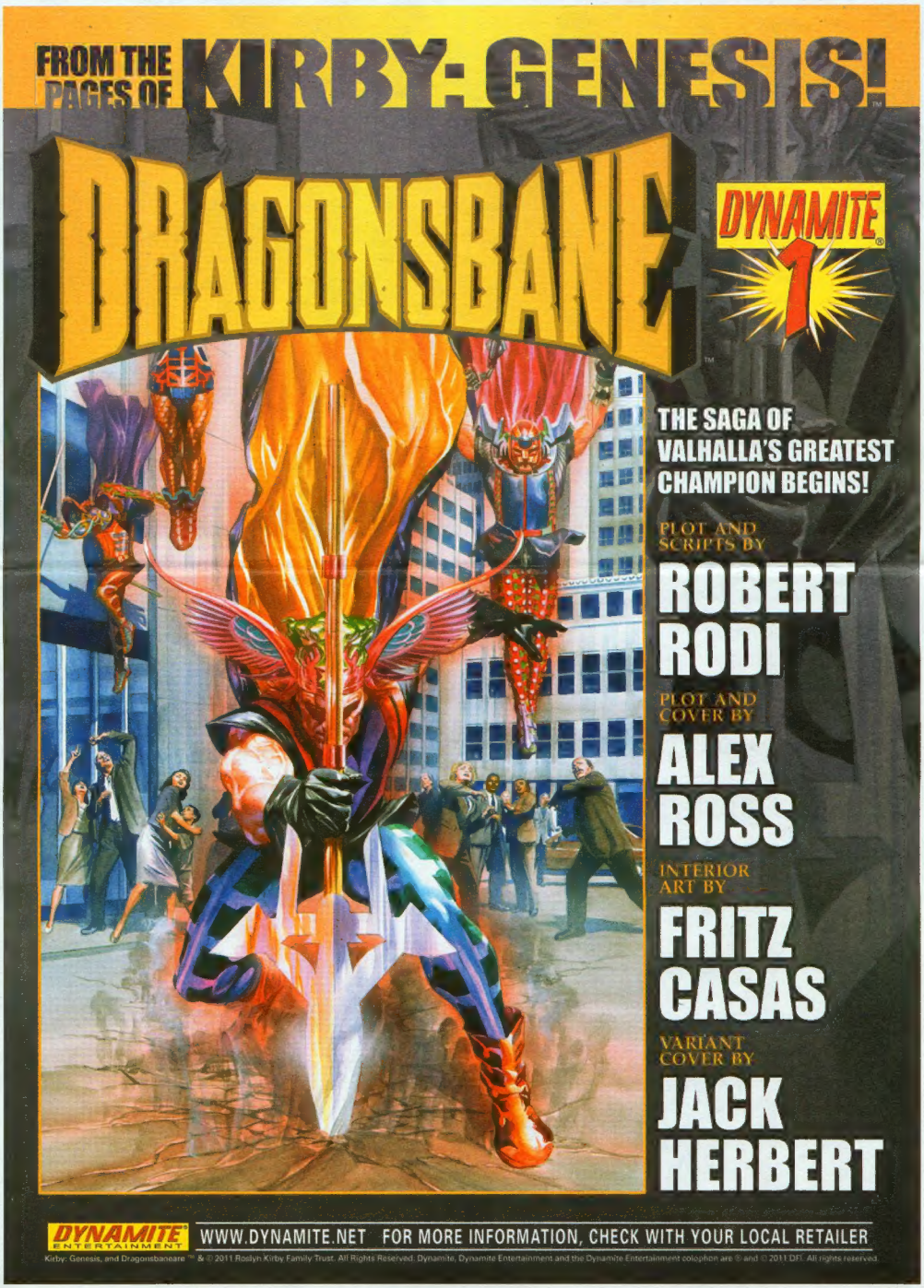
(Dynamite SEP110986 $3.99)

The most powerful man in the world has been living in secret for the last thirty years, surreptitiously protecting the world from the amazing super-powerful dangers that threaten billions every day in this undercover-superhero series.

STITCHED #1

(Avatar SEP110795 $3.99)

Garth Ennis presents a modern horror tale set in the wilds of Afghanistan, where American survivors of a military chopper crash learn that there are things much more horrible than the Taliban lurking in the desolate countryside.


FROM THE PAGES OF KIRBY: GENESIS!
DRAGONSBANE
DYNAMITE 1
THE SAGA OF VALHALLA'S GREATEST CHAMPION BEGINS!
PLOT AND SCRIPTS BY
ROBERT RODI
PLOT AND COVER BY
ALEX ROSS
INTERIOR ART BY
FRITZ CASAS
VARIANT COVER BY
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—AIN'T IT COOL NEWS
"Ambitious."
—USA TODAY
"Comic-book art at its finest."
—Entertainment Weekly Shelf Life
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